



# AUSTIN LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

Asian American Quality of Life Commission

April 18, 2023

# WHAT IS LIGHT RAIL

- Light rail is an electric train system used in metropolitan areas
- Light rail is part of the overall transit network, connecting people to key destinations where they live, work and play to improve:
  - **Mobility**
  - **Connectivity**
  - **Affordability**
  - **Sustainability**

## ARTIST REPRESENTATIONS



Light Rail Vehicle



Light Rail Vehicle Interior



Guadalupe Street at UT Austin



Multi-Modal Connectivity



Station View at Pleasant Valley

## PRECEDENTS



Paris, France



Portland, Oregon



Sydney, Australia

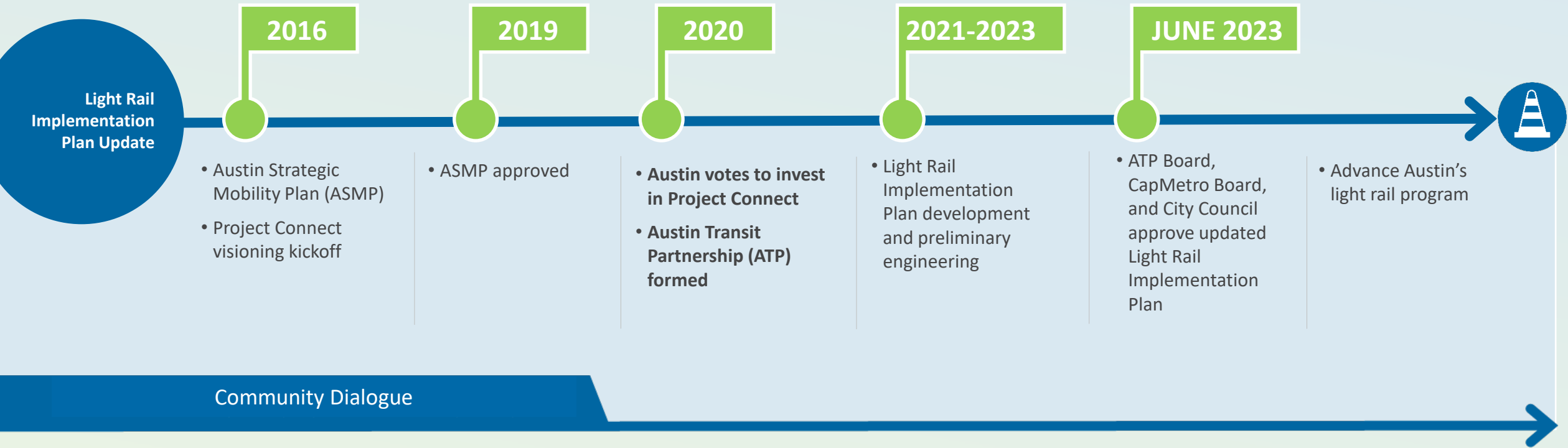


Seattle, Washington



Ontario, Canada

# AUSTIN'S PATH TO LIGHT RAIL



# MEASURES AND VALUES

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Financial Viability



Technical Feasibility

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Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Criteria for Federal Funding



Planning Data



Community Values



Connects with Austin's Current and Future Transit System



# MEASURES AND VALUES



Multimodal Connectivity



Accessibility / Universal Design



Healthcare Facilities



Education



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions



Environmental Benefits / Impacts




Affordable Housing





# POPULATION DENSITY

Census 2020

LEGEND

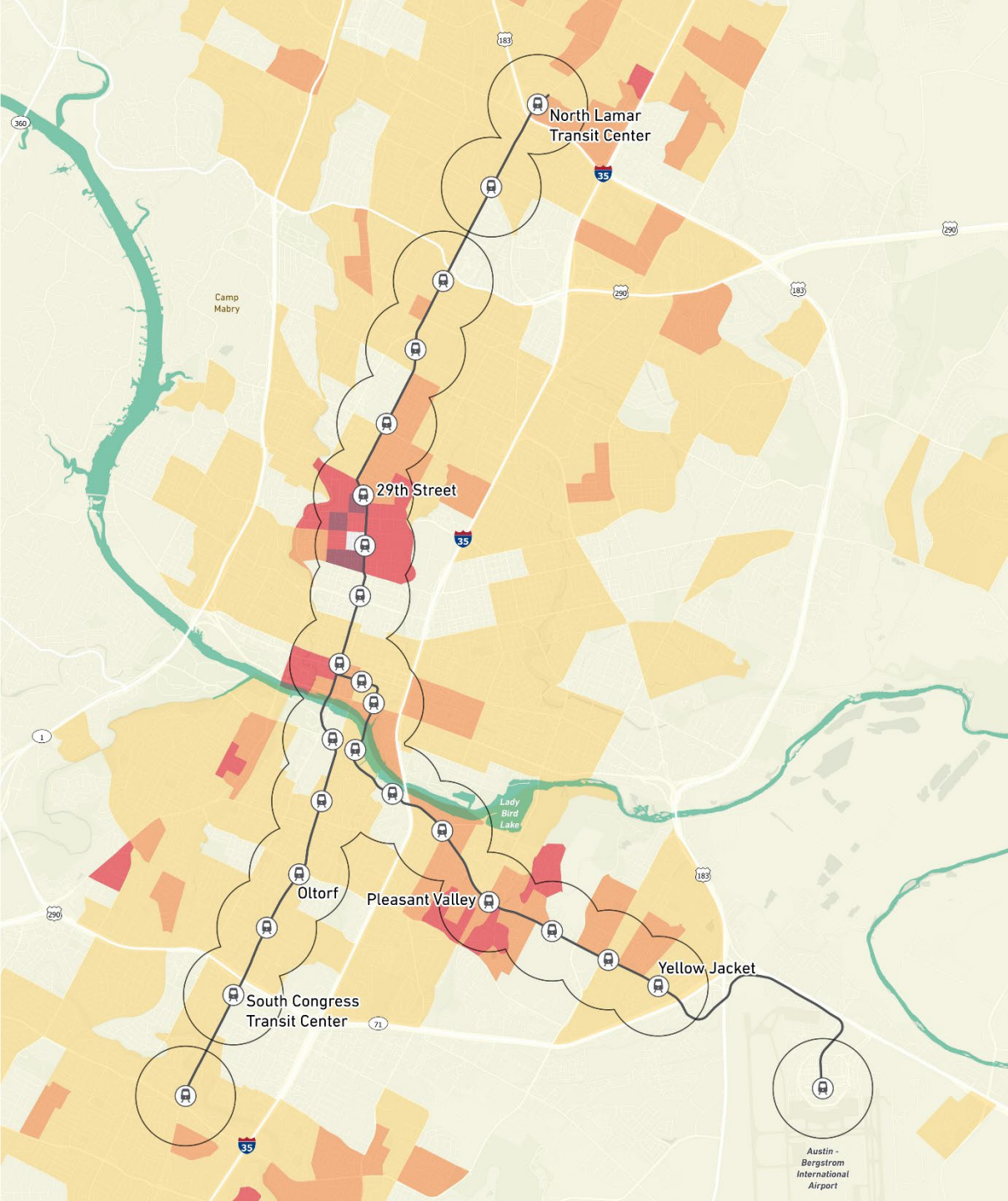
-  Station

 0.5 mi radius from station

 Study Area
- People per square mile

0 - 3,800

3,801 - 8,800
- 8,801 - 18,000
- 18,001 - 41,000
- 41,001 +





# BIPOC SHARE OF POPULATION

*Black, Indigenous, & People of Color*

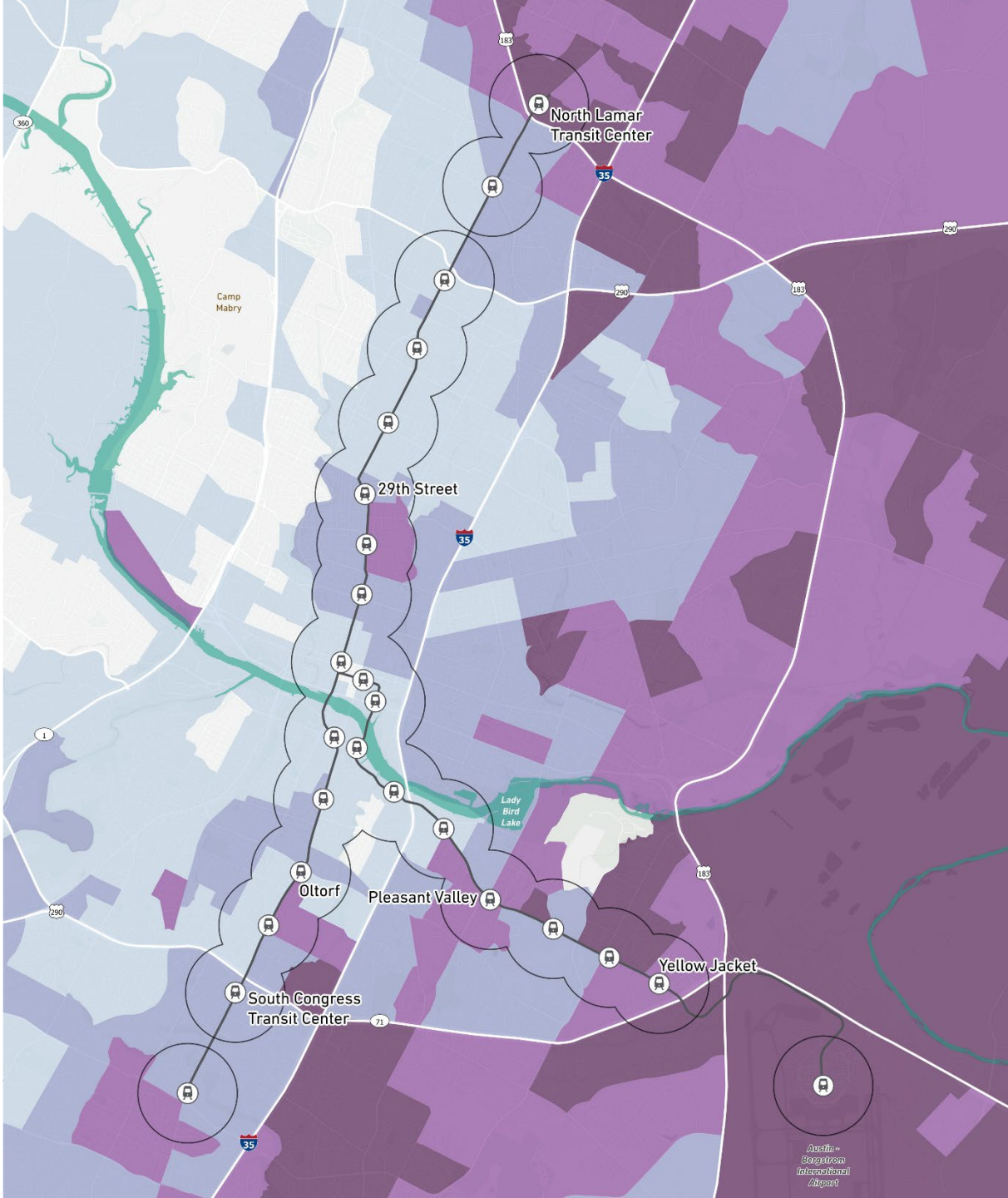
Census 2020

**LEGEND**

- Station
- 0.5 mi radius from station
- Study Area

**BIPOC Share**

- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%




# CURRENT EMPLOYMENT DENSITY

Longitudinal  
Employer-Household  
Dynamics (LEHD) 2019


**LEGEND**

 Station

 0.5 mi radius from station


 Study Area

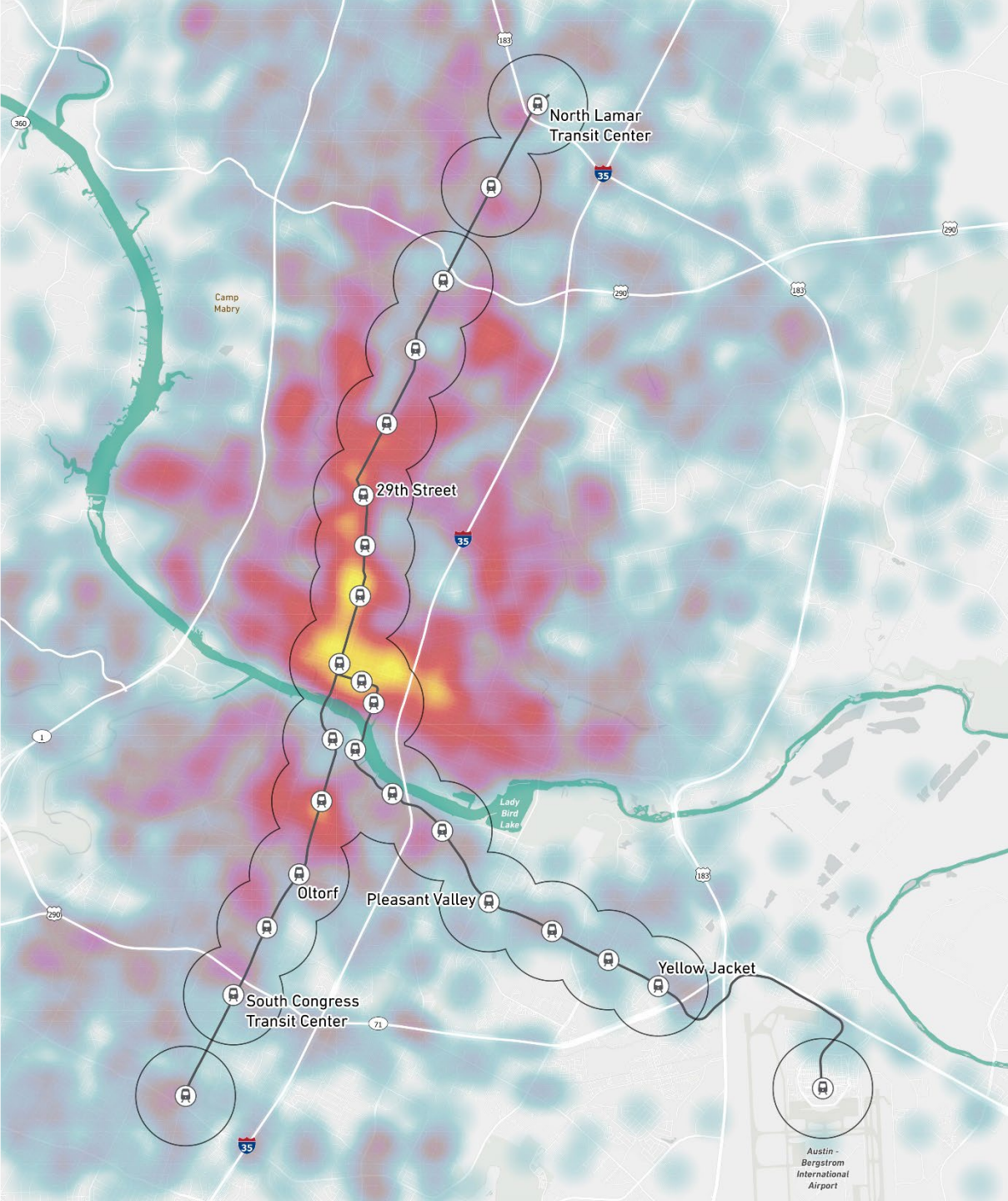
Employment



Sparse

Dense







# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## City of Austin Comprehensive Affordable Housing Directory

### LEGEND

-  Station

 0.5 mi radius from station

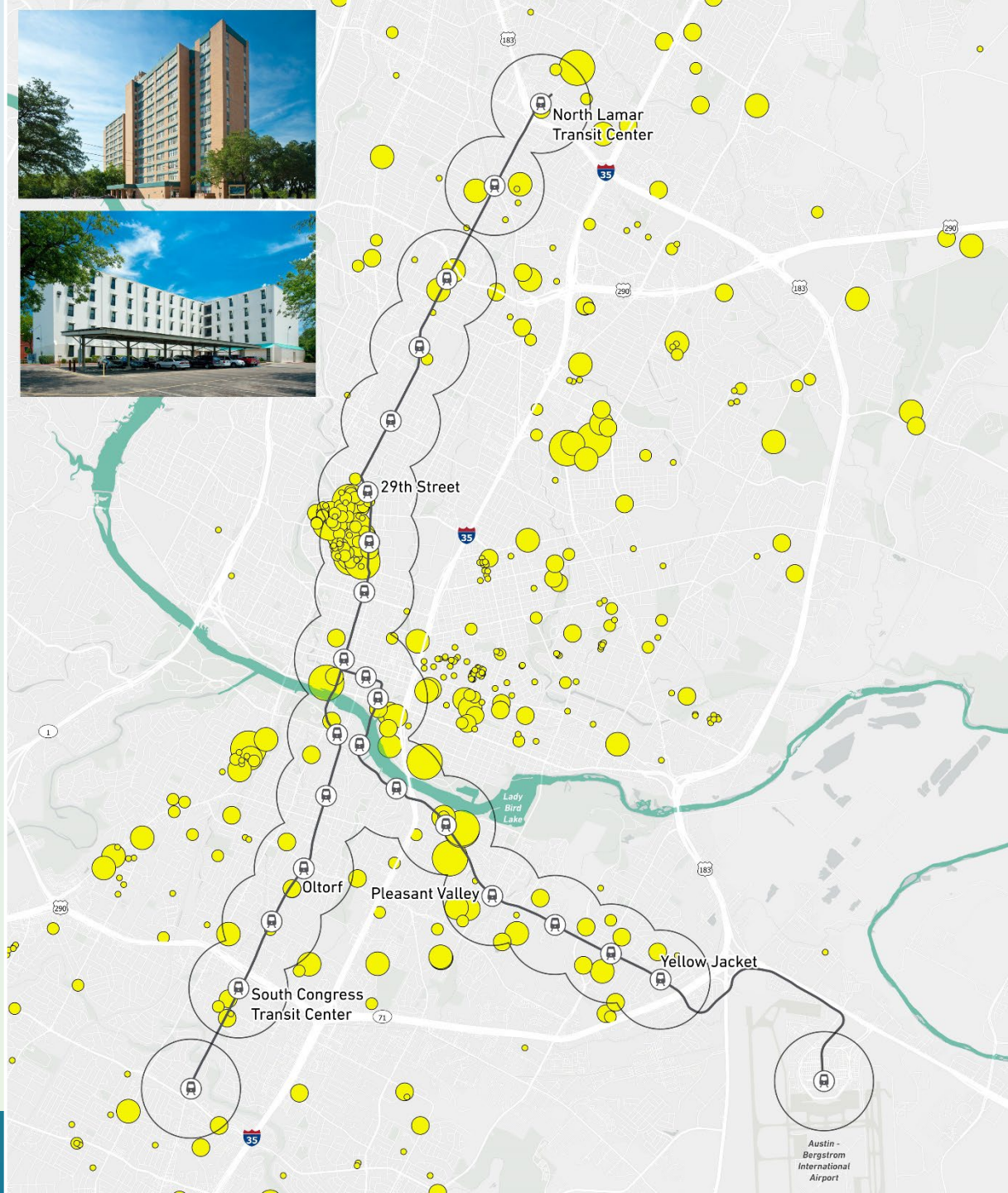
 Study Area
- Affordable Housing Units

 1 - 50

 51 - 150

 151 - 250
-  251 - 400

 401 +





# TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

## CapMetro

### LEGEND

- Station
  - 0.5 mi radius from station
  - Study Area
  - Park & Ride
- Transit Routes

  - Red Line
  - Green Line (proposed)
  - MetroRapid
- High Frequency MetroBus
  - Pickup Service Zone










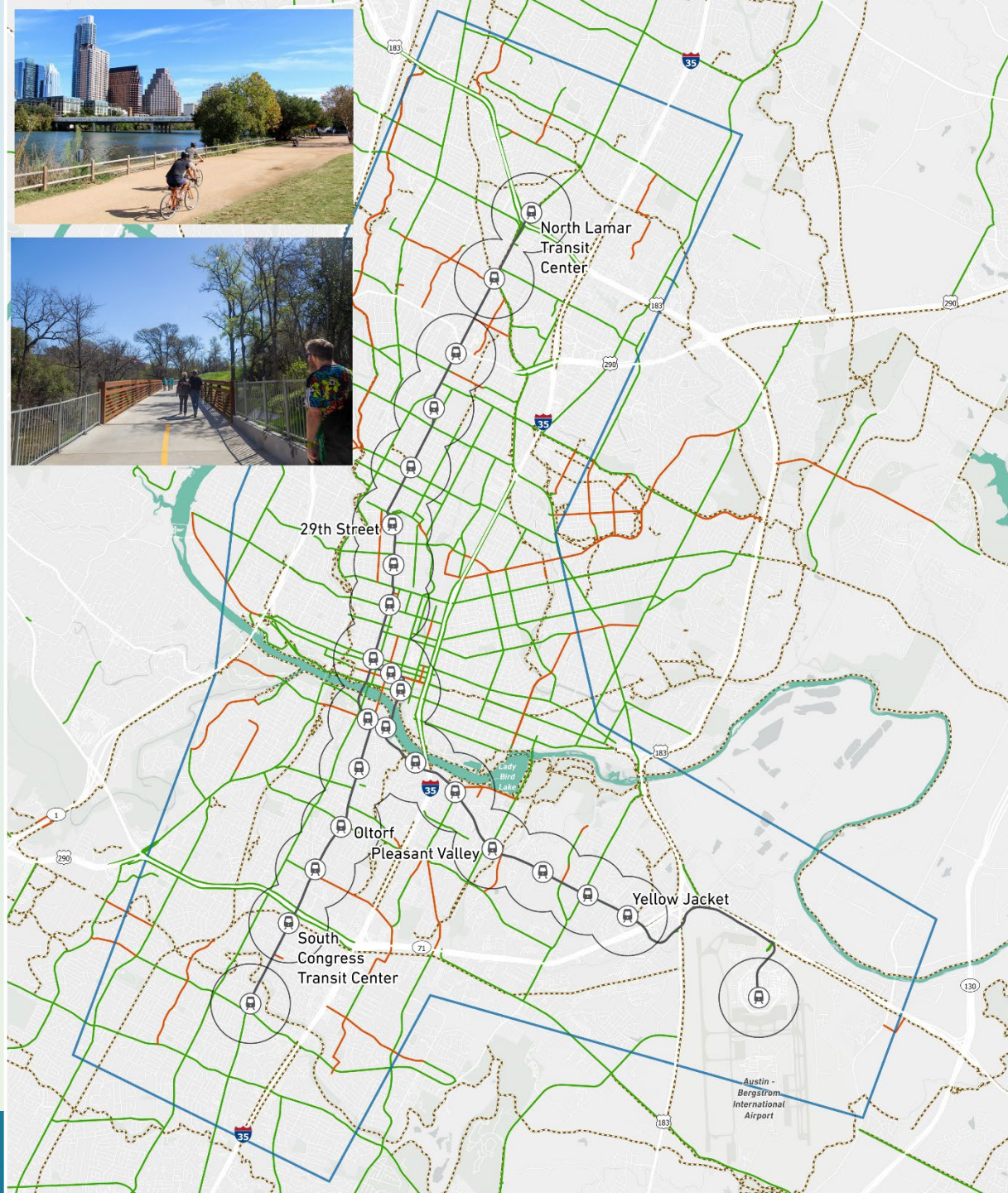


# TRAILS AND BIKE PATHS

## City of Austin Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP)

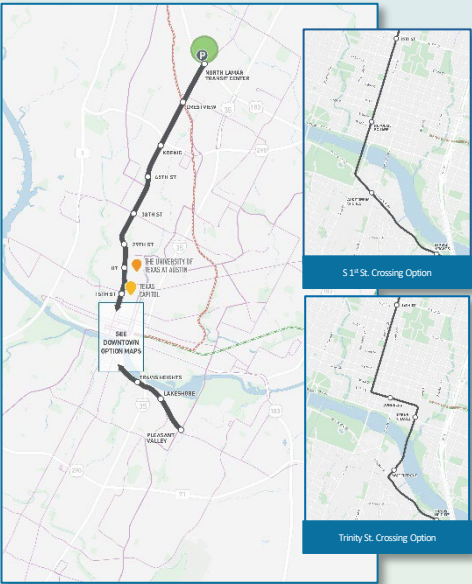
### LEGEND

-  Station
-  0.5 mi radius from station
-  Study Area
-  Station Bikeshed (approx 2 mi)
-  Existing Bike Paths
-  Future Bike Paths
-  Trails

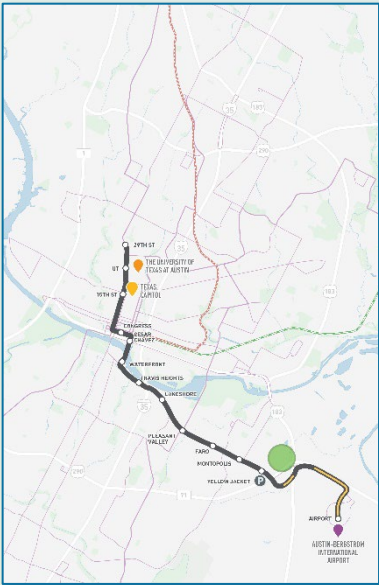




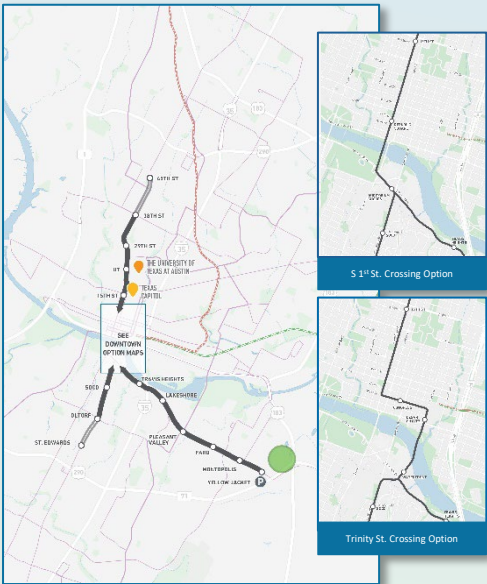
# LIGHT RAIL CORE SYSTEM OPTIONS



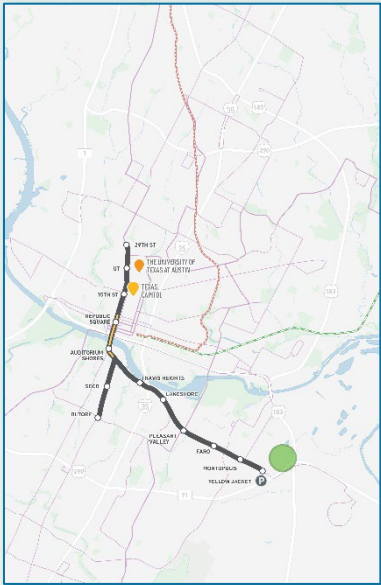
**ON-STREET:**  
NORTH LAMAR TRANSIT CENTER  
TO PLEASANT VALLEY



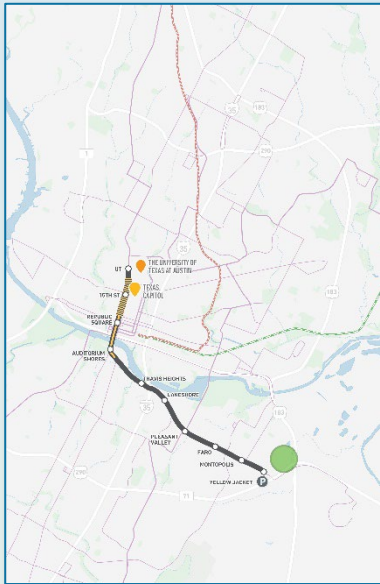
**ON-STREET:**  
29TH TO THE AIRPORT



**ON-STREET:**  
38TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET



**PARTIAL ELEVATED:**  
29TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET

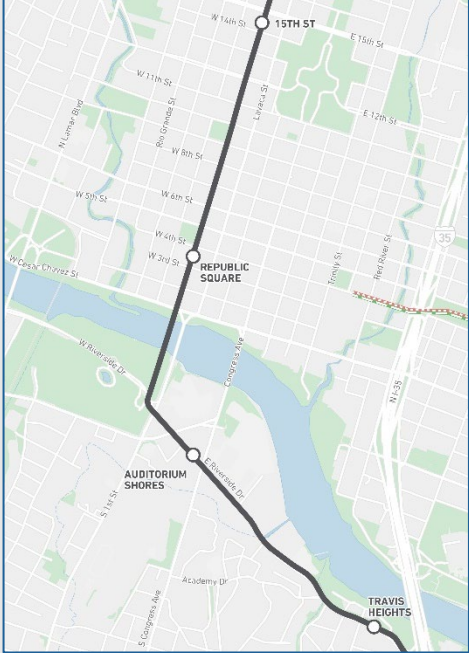
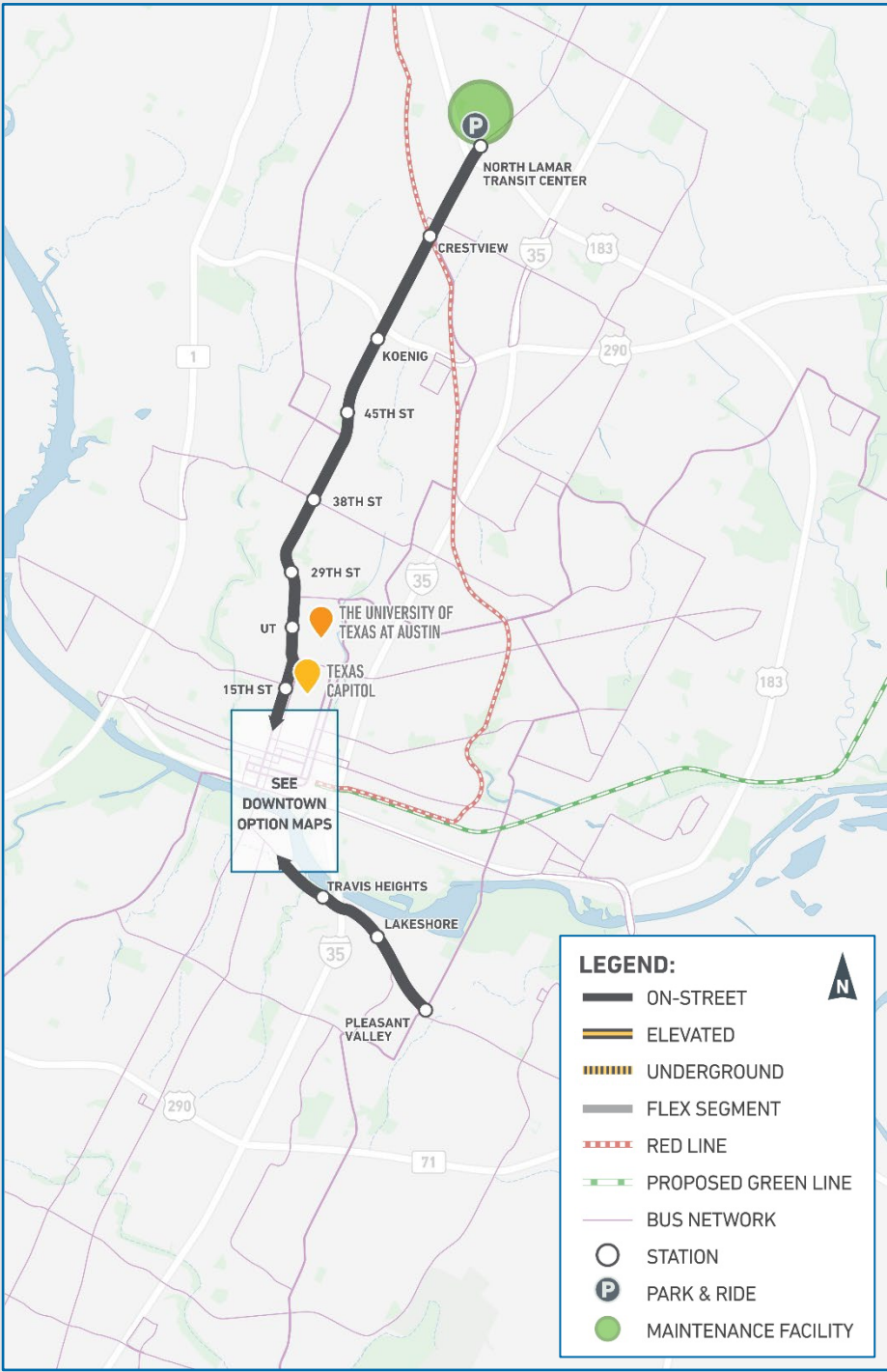


**PARTIAL UNDERGROUND:**  
UT TO YELLOW JACKET

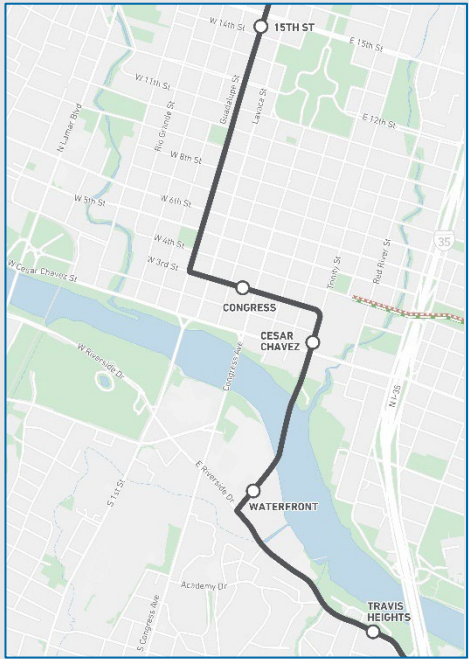
# ON-STREET: N. LAMAR TRANSIT CENTER TO PLEASANT VALLEY

- On-street from North Lamar Transit Center to Pleasant Valley Rd. on E. Riverside Dr.
- Lady Bird Lake crossing options at Guadalupe/S. 1st St. OR Trinity St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	38,600 - 39,300
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	9.6 - 9.8



Guadalupe/S. 1st St. Crossing Option



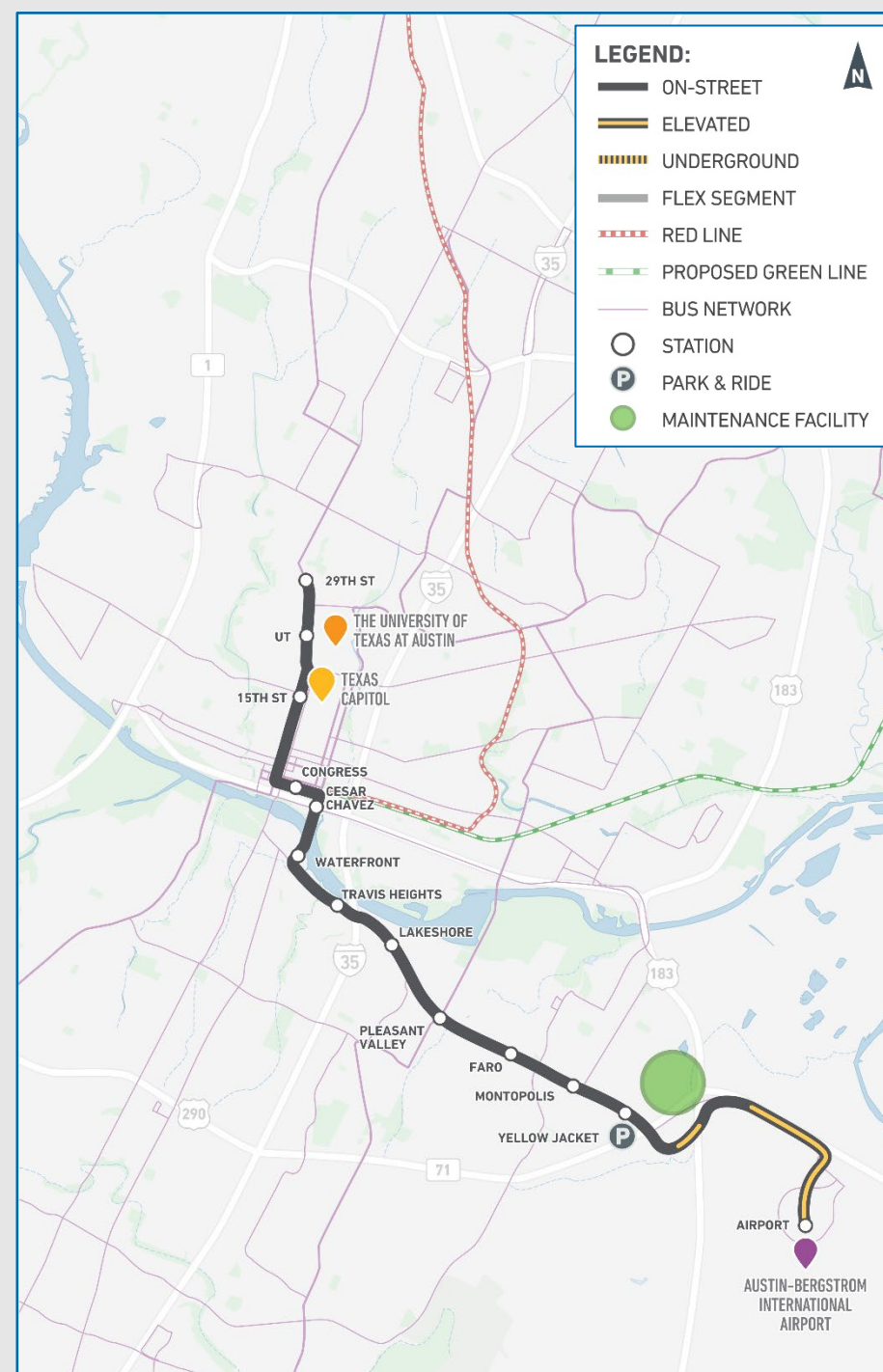
Trinity St. Crossing Option



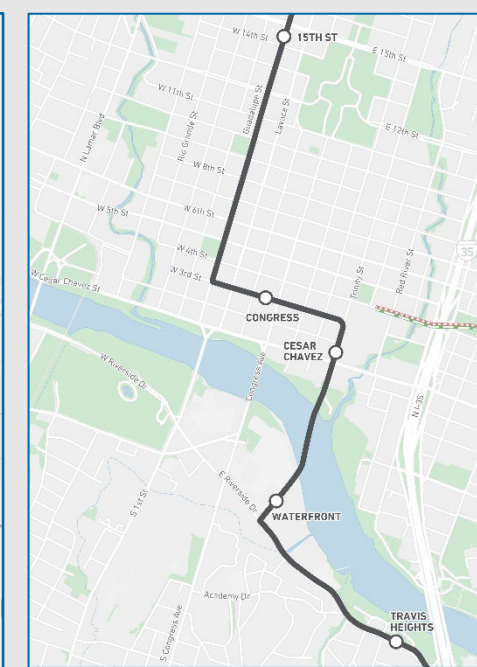
# ON-STREET: 29TH TO THE AIRPORT

- On-street from 29th St. on Guadalupe St. to east of Yellow Jacket Ln. on E. Riverside Dr.
- Mainly elevated from SH 71 to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
- Lady Bird Lake crossing on new bridge at Trinity St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	28,100
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	10.1



### Trinity St. Crossing Option

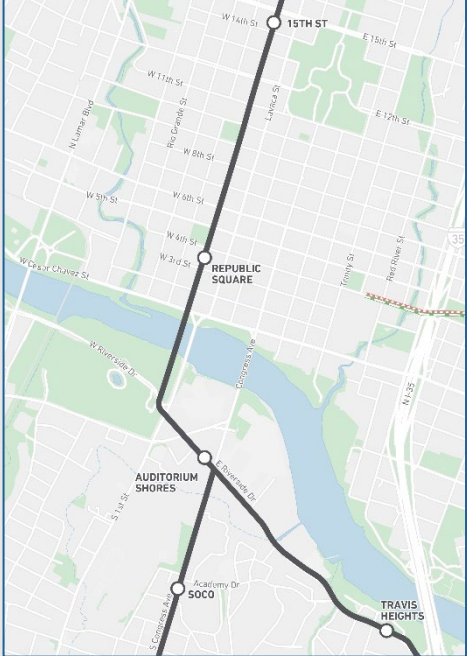
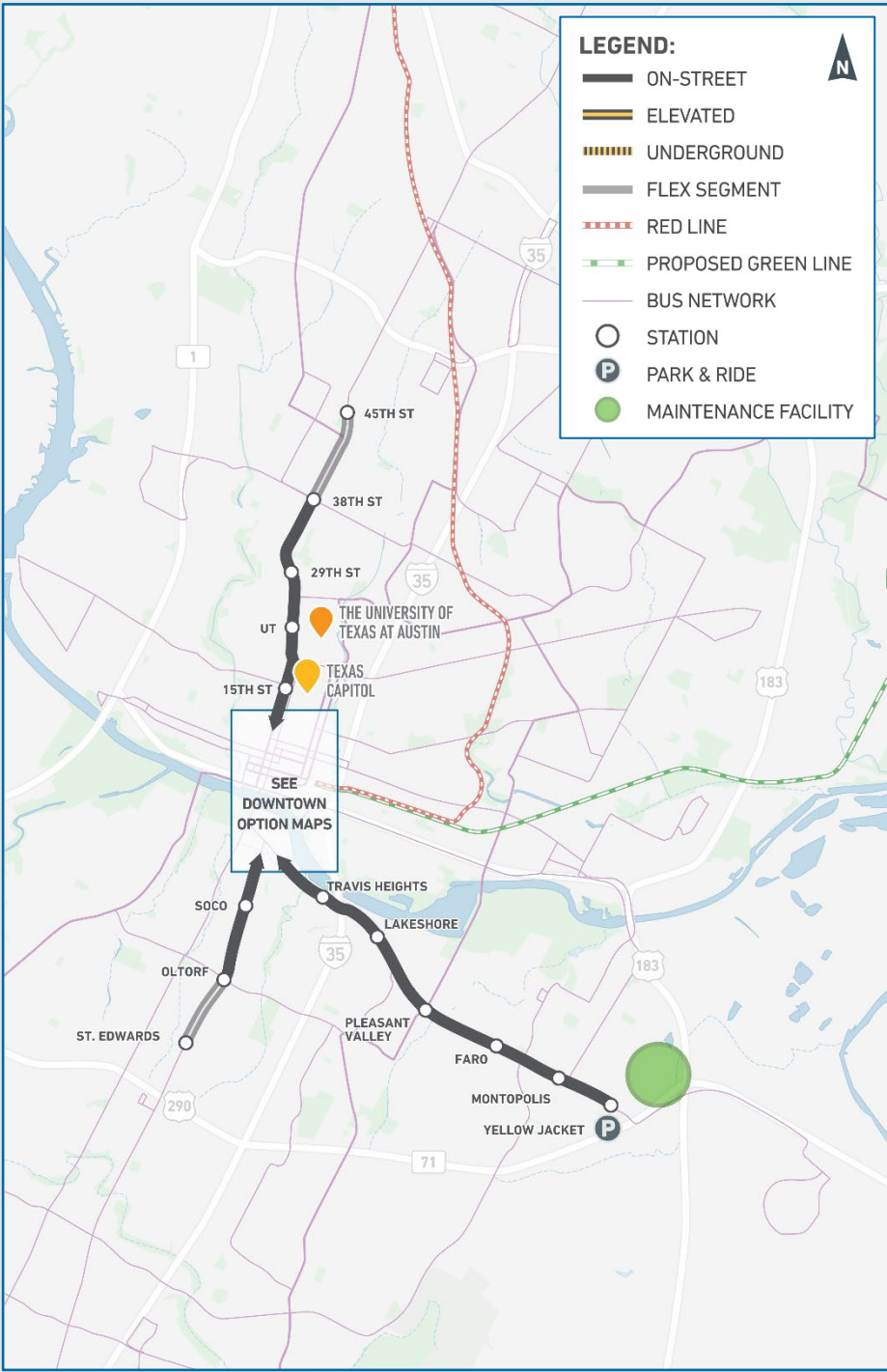




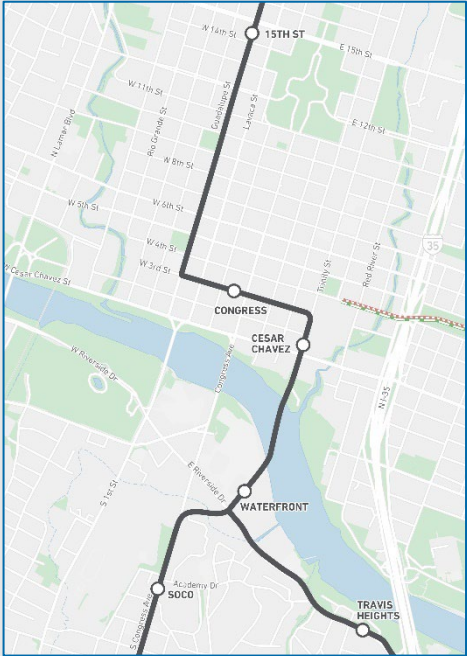
# ON-STREET: 38TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET

- On-street from 38<sup>th</sup> St. on Guadalupe St. to Oltorf St. on S. Congress Ave. and to Yellow Jacket Ln. on E. Riverside Dr.
- Potential to extend endpoints to 45th St. to the north or St. Edwards to the south
- Lady Bird Lake crossing options at Guadalupe/S.1st St. OR Trinity St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	28,500 - 29,900
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	9.4 - 9.8



Guadalupe/ S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Crossing Option

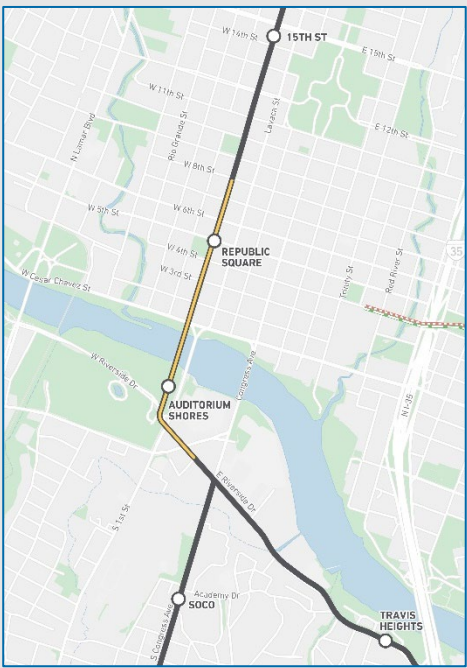
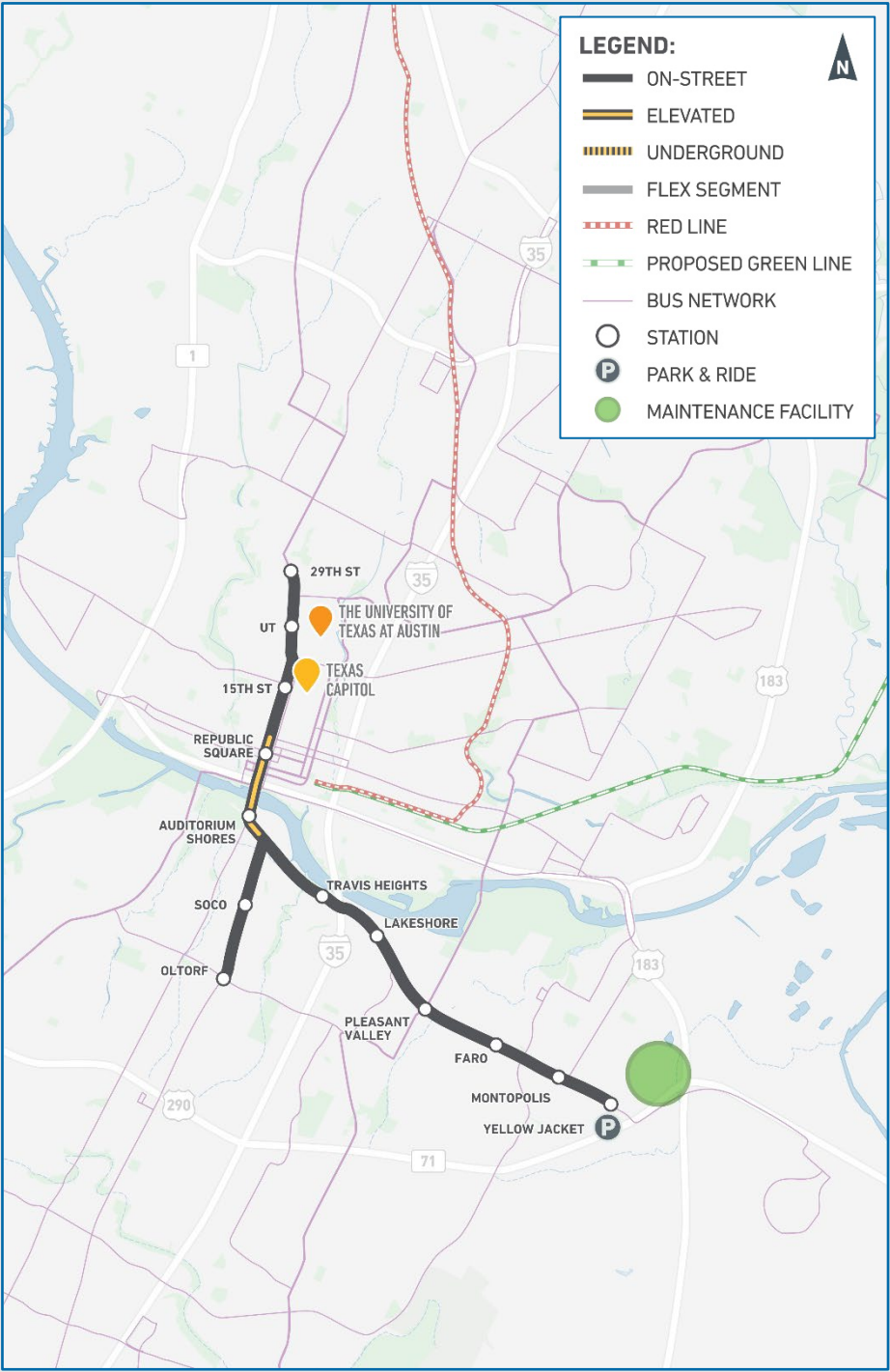


Trinity St. Crossing Option

# PARTIAL ELEVATED: 29TH TO OLTORF TO YELLOW JACKET

- On-street on Guadalupe from 29th St. to 8th St.
- Elevated from 8th St. on Guadalupe to east of Auditorium Shores with (2) elevated stations
- On-street on Riverside Dr. from east of Auditorium Shores to Yellow Jacket Ln. and on S. Congress Ave. from Riverside to Oltorf St.
- Lady Bird Lake crossing on new bridge at Guadalupe/S. 1st St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	26,900
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	8.7



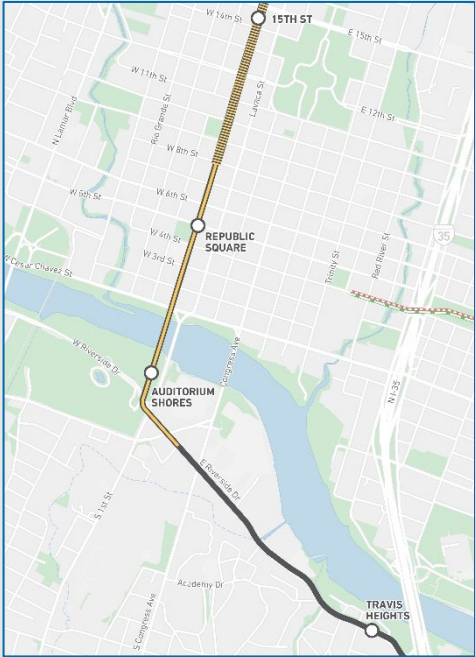
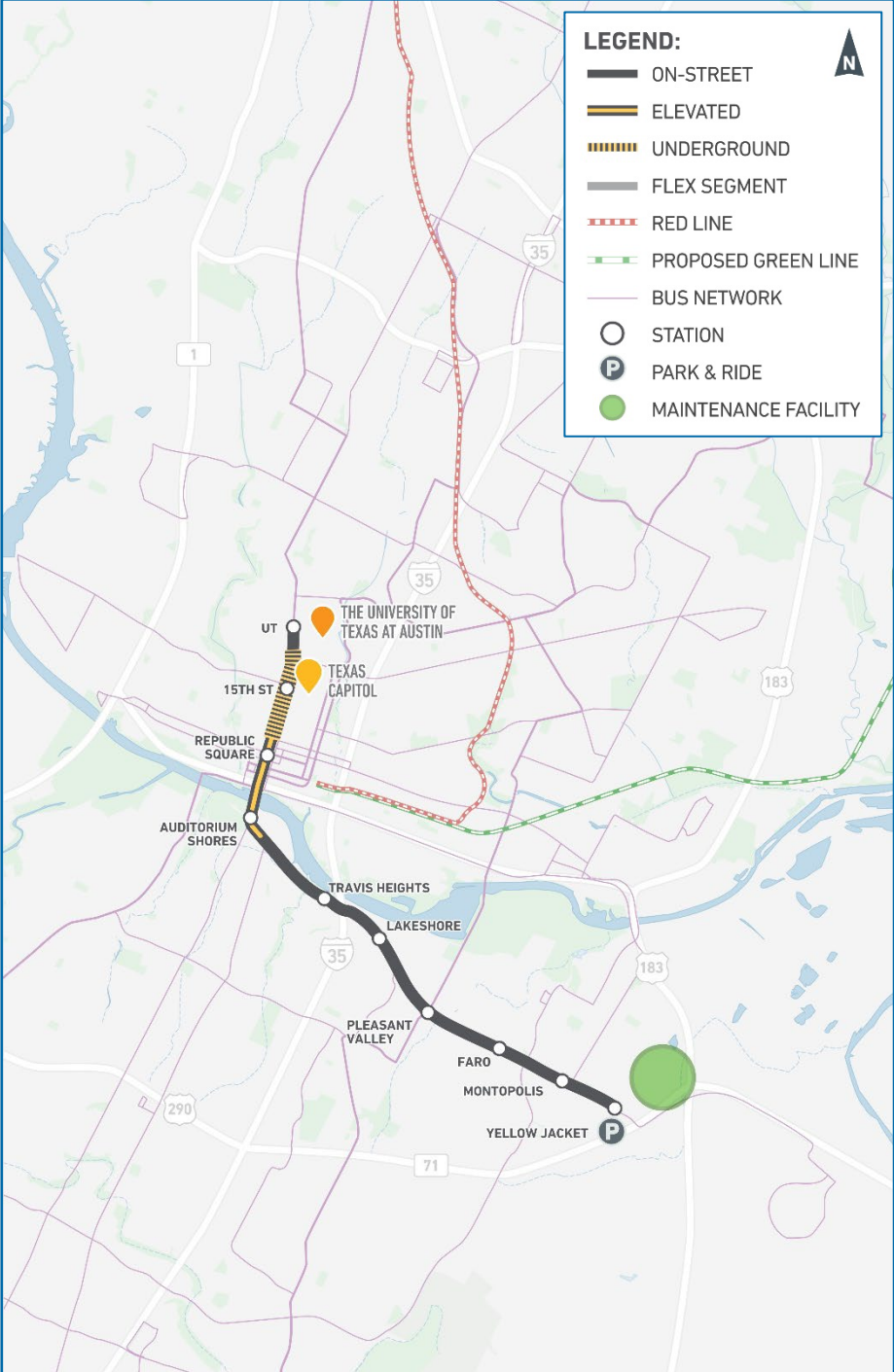
Guadalupe/ S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Crossing Option



# PARTIAL UNDERGROUND: UT TO YELLOW JACKET

- Underground from 20th St. to 8th St. under Guadalupe with (1) underground station
- Elevated from 8th St. on Guadalupe St. to east of Auditorium Shores with (2) elevated stations
- On-street on Riverside Dr. from east of Auditorium Shores to Yellow Jacket Ln.
- Lady Bird Lake crossing on new bridge at Guadalupe/S. 1st St.

AVG. NUMBER OF DAILY RIDERS SERVED	20,000
MILES OF NEW LIGHT RAIL	6.6



Guadalupe/ S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Crossing Option

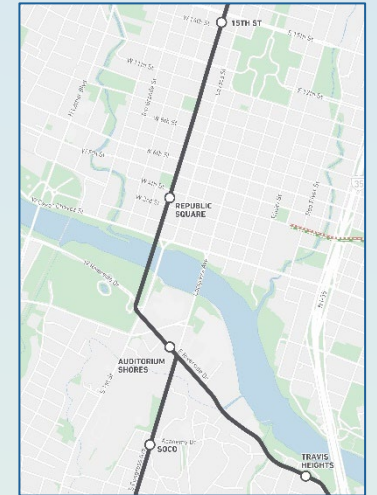


# ON-STREET DOWNTOWN

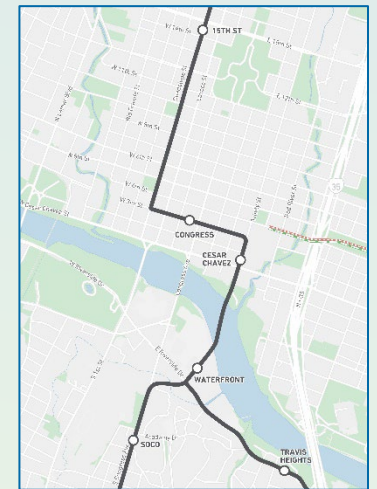
## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



East 3rd Street and San Jacinto Boulevard - Looking West



S 1st St. Crossing Option



Trinity St. Crossing Option



# ON-STREET DOWNTOWN

## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



Guadalupe Street at 4<sup>th</sup> Street / Republic Square - Looking Northwest

## PRECEDENTS



Sydney



Jerusalem



Paris



Portland

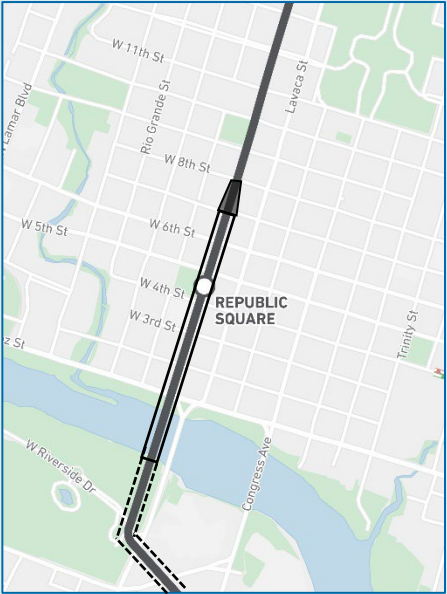


# PARTIAL ELEVATED DOWNTOWN

## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



Guadalupe Street at 4<sup>th</sup> Street / Republic Square - Looking Northwest



- EXTENTS OF ELEVATED STRUCTURE:  
(PARTIAL ELEVATED OPTION)
- Transition Zone: 8<sup>th</sup> St. to 7<sup>th</sup> St.
  - Elevated Structure: 7<sup>th</sup> St. to Lady Bird Lake
  - Elevated Structure possible extension south to Riverside/Barton Springs Road



# PARTIAL ELEVATED DOWNTOWN

## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



Guadalupe Street and West 5th Street - Looking South

## PRECEDENTS



British Columbia, Canada



The Hague, Netherlands



The Hague, Netherlands



# PARTIAL ELEVATED DOWNTOWN

## ARTIST REPRESENTATION



Guadalupe Street and West 4th Street - Looking South

## PRECEDENTS



British Columbia, Canada



The Hague, Netherlands



The Hague, Netherlands



# PARTIAL ELEVATED SOUTH OF THE RIVER

## ARTIST REPRESENTATIONS



Aerial View South of River - Looking North



Station View at Auditorium Shores



Transition from elevated to on-street at West Riverside Drive

# SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK



SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO  
LEARN MORE



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**THANK YOU!**